

Certification Requirements for the Importation of Pet Food into Trinidad and Tobago from the United States

The following certification statements, as applicable, are required on a VS Form 16-4 to export pet food to Trinidad and Tobago. The facility must either be participating in the European Union program (and thus annually inspected by APHIS Veterinary Services), or otherwise be inspected annually by APHIS Veterinary Services to verify certification requirements. Please note that if statement #11 (regarding tallow) is applicable, lab results must be provided.

1. The producing plant has been approved by the United States Department of Agriculture under APHIS Veterinary Services as a producer of pet food for export, and is supervised by an official or accredited veterinarian.
2. The pet food meets the requirements of the United States for local use.
3. The United States is free of foot-and-mouth disease.
4. The animals used in the production of the food were presented for examination at slaughter and evaluated favorably for inclusion in pet food, and were slaughtered under standards existing for pet food in the United States or the State of origin of the product.
5. Select a or b below, as appropriate:
 - a. Raw materials of animal origin are of local origin (excluding fish) and no imported meat and no ovine ingredients (imported or domestic) have been included in the said product.
 - b. Raw materials of animal origin are of local origin (excluding fish) and no imported meat has been included in the said product except for _____ (species/ingredient) legally imported from _____ (country(ies) of origin). Any ovine ingredients contained in the product are derived from animals born, reared, and slaughtered in Australia/New Zealand.
6. The raw materials have been manufactured and packaged in compliance with approved manufacturing practices, in the country of export, designed to produce a product free from pathogenic microorganisms.
7. Any meat from cattle comes from animals which were subjected to ante-mortem examination (inspected prior to slaughter), and were not found to show any evidence or clinical signs of any disease transmissible by the certified materials. These animals did not show any clinical signs of generalized central nervous system disease. The feeding of ruminants with meat-and-bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants is banned in the United States, and this ban is effectively enforced. The State of origin is free of exotic Newcastle disease.
8. The product has not been exposed to radioactive contamination.
9. The products covered by this certificate are free for sale in the United States.
10. The product has not been manufactured using animal proteins derived from any specified risk materials (SRMs) defined as: the brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia (DRG) of cattle 30 months of age and older, and the tonsils and distal ileum of the small intestine of all cattle.
11. If the product covered by this certificate contains tallow, the tallow is protein-free tallow (defined as having a maximum of 0.15% insoluble impurities by weight).